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COLFAX COUNTY CITY OF RATON.

Gov. M. A. Otero, in his annual report to the secretary of the interior, says:

Colfax county lies in the northern tier of counties, between Texas and Utah, immediately south of the Colorado line, and is 72 miles long from east to west and 51 miles wide. It contains 3,784 square miles, more than one-half being included with in the boundaries of the Maxwell land grant. The area of the county is more than three times that of Rhode Island, twice that of Delaware, and half that of New Jersey. For some years, and up to 1888, the growth and development of the county were retarded by the unsettled condition of land titles, but these have been adjusted, and the wise and generous policy of the land grant management, coupled with the energy and thrift of the people of the county, in general, have more than overcome all these drawbacks, and many tracts of land are sold by the grant company annually to individual ranchmen, farmers, colonists, and others on terms more advantageous than could be had from the government. The land within the grant is mostly mountainous, containing large tracts of valuable timber, coal, gold, silver, lead, iron and copper. The remaining land in the county is mostly undulating prairie, resembling very much the one-time prairie land of the Mississippi valley, with gradual slope from north-west to southeast. A large portion of the land still remains the property of the government, but is rapidly being taken up. During the recent year ending June 30, 1901, there were home-stead entries in Colfax county upon 15,633.76 acres, desert land entries upon 1,290 acres, land sold outright, 208.34 acres, and land entered by the United States land commission for the Territory of New Mexico amounted to 32,695.38 acres, or a total of 59,728.48 acres. The soil is rich and a great portion of it can be irrigated from the waters of the Red, Vermejo, Cimarron, Crow Creek, Ocate, Rio Gato, Chisora and Rio Grande rivers, and many smaller streams. Water is abundant in the best form for irrigation, from 12 to 50 feet above the surface. Several good-sized lakes also exist in the county. The altitude varies from 5,000 feet at the foothills, rising to 12,000 feet at the top of the mountains, which is the highest ridge of the Sangre de Cristo range.

The northern portion is bounded by the Hatten range of mountains, being a spur or offshoot from one of the main ranges of the Rockies. The mountains on the north and west offer a natural protection from snow storms and blizzards, as well as from high winds. The average mean temperature is 52 degrees F., near the foothills, the average minimum being 32 degrees, and the average maximum 72 degrees. The atmosphere is dry and no great extremes of heat or cold are experienced. The average rainfall is 14 to 19 inches on the plateau, but in the mountains it runs as high as 30 inches. During the winter the canyons in the mountains are filled with snow, which gradually melts during the spring and summer, furnishing a sufficient supply of water for the needs of irrigation.

The population of Colfax county was 10,150, according to the census of 1900. In 1890 it was 7,974. Since 1890 the precinct of Clayton, with 750 inhabitants, has been taken to form part of Union county. Colfax county therefore shows an increase in its population of almost 48 per cent in ten years. The density of the population is 2.68 to the square mile. Colfax county is fifteenth in size, eleventh in population, sixth in density of population, and fourth in assessed valuation of the twenty-one counties of New Mexico. The county is divided into twenty-four precincts, and has one incorporated city, Raton, the county seat. Though coming from various states of the union, different parts of Europe and Mexico, together with the native population who remained there at the time New Mexico became part of the United States, and engaged in various pursuits of life, its inhabitants are yet as homogeneous a class of people as can be found anywhere between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, they being industrious, thrifty, and progressive. The business interests of Colfax county are most diversified, though mining and stock raising are foremost; indeed, in many instances they go hand in hand, for the mines are so near the ranches and so alluring to the average man, that no matter whether his occupation be that of stock grower, farmer, merchant, or railroad, he soon finds himself grubstaking a prospector and personally getting in his summer vacation in camp, varying his work with pick and shovel with the gun and rod. The mountainous mining region abounds in game and beautiful streams filled with trout.

Southern Colfax County.

It is wonderful to see the changes made in the last few years in the Ocate, Sweetwater, Red Lakes, and Black Lakes country. This is the only strip of government land on the south side of Colfax county between the Mora and Maxwell grants, running from Union county west to the Taos county line. The rapid settlement of this portion of the county and its development is attracting many home seekers at the present time, and within a short time all the land will be taken. Its resources are very great. The scenery is unsurpassed and beauty is on every line, from the prairie to the highest mountain peak, with a varying elevation of from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. On the prairie

can be raised all kinds of grain, fruit, vegetables and alfalfa. There are also fine ranges for cattle and sheep. The first plateau of the mountains is covered with pine and spruce timber.



COURT HOUSE AND RATON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

which supplies the lower country with lumber for all building purposes of a better quality than the eastern pine for general use. These potatoes grow in abundance to supply the surrounding country, also wheat, oats, corn, barley, and all kinds of vegetables are raised without irrigation at this altitude. More cattle are raised to the acre than on the prairie on account of the more fertile pastures and the good shelter from the winter storms. From these ranges the way up to the summit of the divide. There is a splendid view of the Black Lakes valley, which forms a basin, with mountains towering up on every side, making it a grand sight to behold and one to be remembered by the observer. After winding one's way down to the valley and upon reaching the foothills, settlements appear in the distance as far as the eye can reach, with well cultivated farms and ranches stocked with cattle and sheep.

Its beautiful lakes and surroundings make it a wonderful panoramic mountain landscape. The minerals that this section contains are not yet developed. Some prospecting was done at points around the Black Lakes, but not enough to establish its resources in mineral wealth. At points from the Red Lakes to the foothills gold indications were found on the surface, but nothing more was done to find the source from which they came. From the prairie to the highest mountain peak on this strip of land is settled with a prosperous, contented, and happy people.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

While the chief industries of Colfax county are mining and stock raising, there is also much attention given to farming and fruit growing. The Canadian river and its tributaries are capable of furnishing water sufficient to irrigate many more acres than are now cultivated. About Springer and Maxwell City are perfect systems of reservoirs and canals constructed by the Maxwell Grant company, by which over 60,000 acres have been brought under cultivation. Here would be an ideal location for a beet sugar factory. The finest cereals and fodder are produced in this region. Along the valleys of the Vermejo, Rayado and other streams are extensive farming districts. The Dawson, Chase and Mills orchards are among the most famous producers in New Mexico. Fruit growing and the management of the crop have been brought to a business standard on these big fruit ranches that is not excelled anywhere in the west, and certainly not in the Rocky mountain region.

In the northeastern portion of the county is the Johnson mesa, beginning about eight miles from Raton, at an elevation of almost 8,000 feet, and extending to the eastward and the Barata mesa, on both of which the rainfall is amply sufficient for all farming purposes without irrigation.

Over 50,000 acres are now under cultivation on these elevated tablelands. The tillers are mostly Missouri farmers, who came as a colony some years ago and are satisfied with the prosperity that has attended their coming to New Mexico. There are several successful cheese factories, poultry farms, and creameries in this locality. Raton and the adjacent mining camps afford the best of a market for all such products. On the Sugarite Creek, above Raton, is the largest and most successful dairy farm in New Mexico, and in the valley below the town are acres of productive farms and ranches, also a large fruit tree nursery. Alfalfa is the great forage crop. Corn is not profitably grown, owing to the summer nights being too cool.

Live Stock Interests.

Almost 55,000 head of cattle and 200,000 head of sheep are grazing within the boundaries of Colfax county, one stock ranch alone comprising 120,000 acres. The Charles Springer breeding farm near Springer and the W. C. Barnes ranch near Dorsey produce some of the best bred Herefords raised in the west. The Red River ranges on the Catskill, Vasquez and vicinities have been heavily restocked from southern New Mexico and Arizona. It

is now estimated that 25,000 head of cattle can be counted on these ranges where three years ago 1,000 could not be counted. The past and the present season for both sheep and cattle have been the best in years throughout northern and northeastern New Mexico. The small as well as the large owners have made good crops.

During the past year the Maxwell land Grant company has sold nearly 50,000 acres of land to ranchmen and farmers, and this great property is

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A BUSINESS SECTION OF RATON.

tain are far better than they can be on too large a tract of land.

Cities and Towns.

Raton, the county seat, the Gate city of New Mexico, has a population of 3,788, according to the 1900 census, it being the fourth city in size in the territory. In 1890 it had 1,255 inhabitants. Its increase in ten years has been 200 per cent or more than that of any other city in New Mexico. It straddles under the Raton mountain, occupying a beautiful natural location and is in every sense a typical up-to-date western city, peopled by a fine class of citizens, who are ever on the alert for the advancement and upbuilding of their adopted home. This is shown in Raton's superior school system, its churches and the beautiful homes, a person dropping into the town from the east through the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway tunnel and noting the great number of new houses in course of construction would naturally conclude that some sort of a boom was on here, but such is not the case at all. It is simply Raton's ordinary growth, which has been steady and substantial for the past decade, and still the buildings and improvements in general have not kept pace with the business demand of the place. Raton is situated in the midst of an immense coal belt, is surrounded by great cattle ranches and productive farms, is in commercial touch with the principal mining camps of northern New Mexico, and is a prominent railway and industrial point. What more could be required for the making of a flourishing western city?

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway maintains extensive shops at this point, and its shopmen and other employees constitute an important element of its population. Over 50,000 monthly are disbursed by the company at that point. All the trade of Gardner and Blossburg is also transacted at Raton, for these towns are practically nothing but suburbs of the city. The people are public spirited and wide awake. The commercial lines are all well represented in the way of retail business, and a considerable wholesale trade is carried on with the mining and lumber camps. The town has an excellent gravity water system, the water being soft, pure mountain spring water, piped from a reservoir of 32,500,000 gallons capacity, 500 feet above the city. Raton has a good fire department. Its public schools are the pride of its citizens, two of the finest school buildings of the territory being located here and fourteen rooms being taught nine months every year by teachers who are chosen for their educational qualifications. Its streets are well graded and lighted by electricity and the recently constructed court house is one of the handsomest buildings in the terri-

ty. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway has decided to provide the city with a modern depot and railway hotel. The citizens have organized a plan to establish there a flouring mill, a beet sugar factory, and a creamery. Raton maintains three weekly newspapers.

The city has two banks, an opera house, long distance telephone connections, a city hall, a market and building material and a building and loan association.

Springer is also a prosperous town surrounded by a well-to-do farming and stock raising community. The population is 578 according to the census of 1900. It was formerly the county seat, when its population was somewhat greater. Nearly all cement works and are miles southeast of the city for fine water, artesian wells from which the waters are pumped all over the southwest. These are fine flowing wells, but 150 feet in depth. Springer is also the principal railway shipping point for the great mining region about El Paso, the Colorado, the Cimarron and Red River country, and maintaining a daily stage line connected with these points. Springer supports two weekly newspapers and has excellent public schools. It is the fifth town in population, but second in commerce and importance in the county.

Gardner, two miles from Raton, is the head quarters of the Raton Coal & Coke company, where 70 coke ovens are in operation and the daily output is 97 to 75 car loads. Its population is 578 according to the last census is 568, making it the second town in population in Colfax county. Electricity is used in mining the coal, and eight miles are in operation. During the year ending June 30, 1900, the coal production amounted to 200,200 tons and the output of coke was about 21,000 tons. Five hundred and twenty-seven men are



A GROUP OF RATON HOMES.

employed in the mines, according to the 1900 census, it being the fourth town in population in the county. El Paso regular employment in this industry.



A GROUP OF RATON HOMES.

Elizabethtown is an important mining center in the northwestern Colfax county, near the Taos county line. It is a typical mining town that has seen its boom days, but still has a great future on account of the vast mineral deposits around about it. Other important settlements of the county are Cimarron, with 628 inhabitants; Chisora, with 363 people; Maxwell City, with 271 inhabitants; and Colma, with 232 people. That the county is rapidly settling up is shown by the fact that many of the precincts have doubled and tripled their population the past ten years. For instance, in 1890 Black Lakes precinct had 97 inhabitants, in 1900 it had 216; in 1890 Chico Springs had 112 inhabitants and in 1900 it had 289; Maxwell City in 1890 had 151 people, in 1900 it had 271; Mesa had 14 inhabitants in 1890 and in 1900 it had 487; Dorsey had 87 people in 1890 and in 1900 it had 217; Elizabethtown increased from 338 to 577 inhabitants. The population of the other precincts is as follows: Baldy, 111; Cimarron, 263; Rayado, 135; Elkins, 60; Truchess, 184; Pena Flor, 132; Pond Park, 83; Cimarron, 190; Martinez, 328; Pond, 31; Colma, 232, and Johnson Park, 118.

Some Resources.

Gold and copper are the chief products of the mountains about Elizabethtown and Baldy Mountain. The Moreno

and Ute Creek regions have been famous as placer gold producers for a number of years. The lumber industry is one of great importance to the county, especially in the Vermejo and Catskill regions. At this writing a single firm has a contract for supplying 1,000,000 railway ties from northern Colfax county. The Colorado Southern has a line leading into this timber belt from Trinidad.

In the eastern part of the county are the Dawson coal fields which have been acquired by the Dawson Fuel company, which is making preliminary arrangements to work the large veins of excellent coal upon an extensive scale. Its capital is \$1,000,000, and it is backed by the same wealthy Pennsylvania capitalists who built the El Paso & Northeastern railway and are building the Dawson railway from Lila city, San Miguel county, to Dawson.

Silver and lead are also found in Colfax county, and near Springer are extensive systems of beds, while near Raton are good deposits of plumbeo.

Railroads. Colfax county is traversed from north to south by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway system, which enters the county at State Line or Lynn and leaves it at Colmar, a distance of 58 miles. A small branch line connects Blossburg with the main line at Fallon, a distance of five miles. The Colorado & Southern has a mileage of 17 miles in the northwestern part of the county, a branch line from Trinidad, Colo., to Cimarron and Vasquez. A company has also been incorporated by Pennsylvania capitalists, with \$400,000 capital, and the preliminary work is in progress to build a railroad line to the Dawson coal fields in the eastern part of the county from Liberty, in San Miguel county, there to connect with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific system and the El Paso & Northeastern railway. This railway is to be completed within twelve months, and then Colfax county will have within its boundaries over 100 miles of railway.

Opportunities For All. There are splendid opportunities in Colfax county for men with big and little capital, for miners, horticulturists, agriculturists and stockmen, and also for all those back or means to encourage and be intelligent, energy, and a strong determination to win out in the struggle for independence and wealth. Men who desire to invest in manufacturing industries with Colfax county can find an especially attractive field, with a number of great returns on any intelligent investment. The vast beds of coal guaranteeing cheap fuel, the good railroad facilities, the closeness to the markets of the Rocky Mountain states, Mexico, and the Orient, the advantageous climatic conditions, and the numerous of the supply of raw material make a combination which should make certain lines of industry pay handsome dividends. The county can also furnish abundant water power by means of dams, which would at the same time form storage reservoirs from which large tracts could be irrigated at a great profit. Iron and steel rolling mills, smelters, beet sugar factories, tanneries, shoe factories, furniture factories, woolen mills, brick yards, and glass works are industries which would enjoy especial

advantages in Colfax county, owing to the cheapness of fuel, the convenience of water power, the abundance of raw material, and the climate, which would

make work in industries such as rolling mills, glass works etc., much more steady and comfortable than anywhere else in the United States. It is for these reasons, taken all in all, that Colfax county is not only one of the most prosperous, progressive, and promising counties in the territory, but it is in the eve of marvelous growth that will bring to it a teeming population and great wealth.

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RATON NOTES.

Raton is destined to be the second largest city in New Mexico. Colfax county has three railroads, and is sure to get more in the near future.

Raton needs a commercial club and public library.

Colfax county has more undeveloped resources than any other portion of New Mexico.

Raton has an electric light and power plant with a capacity of 1,200 incandescent and fifty arc lights.

A local building and loan association, which has been of material assistance in building up the city.

Two gold banking institutions—the First National, with a paid up capital of \$75,000, and the Citizens' bank, with a paid up capital of \$30,000.

Three excellent weekly newspapers—two democratic and one republican.

An opera house and first class hotel.

Merchandise establishments that could be a credit to a city of 25,000 people.

A \$25,000 court house and many business blocks costing from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each to build.

Long distance telephone line, reaching all the principal towns and mining camps of the county.

The cost of living is very reasonable, day board at the hotels being from \$1 to \$2 per day, with special rates by the week or month.

Coal sells at auction for \$2.24 to \$2.50 per ton.

Native lumber retails for \$15 and brick sells for \$18 per thousand.

A Few Facts.

The Citizen job department desires to call your attention to its ability to please customers. We have added this week new material to our already well appointed job department. This is done in order that we may keep abreast the best and most stylish thing in article display, combined with neatness. As to quality of stock used, we carry a number of paper from the best manufacturers and just such grades as we have found from experience, to be the most satisfactory, both in quality and weight. In the style of work it is a "snap" for us to guarantee that you are pleased. We have, in this department a man who understands his business—and his business is neat and artistic job printing. We invite comparison with any reputable concern. The binding department is complete and also in the hands of a competent man who understands his work thoroughly. In the face of these facts, we ask the merchants, in the same spirit they appeal to their customers, to have all their job printing, binding and special ruling done at home. When we get all their work—a big portion of which is sent to outside printing offices—it will enable us to return more revenue back to the merchants than now, and give us an opportunity to increase our force of workmen, who securing their wages every Saturday evening, patronize the home merchants. Try this scheme, and in the future do not send to Atchison, Kansas, and other towns for job printing and binding that can be done here just as easy and almost as cheap.

Struck Oil Near Gallup.

On Thursday evening the Mammoth Oil company struck a good grade of oil with a paraffine base in their 290 foot well, four miles west of here; the oil has been drawn out since at the rate of a barrel a day. The indications are very favorable for striking a large body of oil soon.—McKinley County Republican.

A movement is on foot to have mine owners combine and establish lead smelters in the west to defeat the intention of the great smelting trusts of the east.

Lucy Brothers have secured a three year lease on the Aztec extension at Baldy, N. M., from the Maxwell Land Grant company and will put a force of men to work at once.

Traveling Auditor Pfundstein, of Trinidad, was here yesterday.



RESERVOIR OF RATON WATER WORKS.